

a' plurality of grooves which extend beyond the rim of the bottle neck--.

On page 6, line 28, delete "FIG. 10" and insert --FIGS. 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14--.

line 29, after "344" insert --(FIGS. 11, 12 and 14)--.

line 29, after "grooves", insert --376 (FIG. 14).-

On page 7, line 1, after "grooves", insert --376--.

line 2, delete "FIGS. 10 and 11" and insert --FIGS. 10, 11, 12 and 14--.

line 3, delete "FIG." and insert --FIGS. 10 and 13-

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 3-9, 11, 12, 15-19, 21-25, 32, 36 and 37 as follows:

1 1. (Amended) A bottle cap for capping a bottle having a mouth
2 having a rim, the cap comprising:
3 a top portion having an inner surface;
4 an annular wall extending from the top portion;
5 a plurality of concentric circular [ridge] ridges formed
6 on the top portion inner surface for registering with the rim; and
7 at least a slot formed across [the ridge] ~~across~~ each of
8 said plurality of ridges.

Application No. 09/277,918

In claim 3, line 1, delete "2" and insert --1--;

In claim 3, lines 1 and 2, delete "a plurality of concentric ridges".

3/4. (Amended) A bottle cap as recited in claim [2] 1
[comprising a plurality of concentric ridges,] wherein [at least
one slot is formed across each ridge] a slot in each ridge is
aligned with a slot in a consecutive ridge for defining a single
slot across said consecutive ridges.

In claim 5, line 1, delete "4" and insert --1--.

In claim 6, line 1, delete "2", and insert --1--.

In claim 7, line 1, cap as recited in claim "2" and insert --
1--.

In claim 8, line 1, delete "2" and insert --1--.

8/9. (Amended) A bottle cap comprising:
a top portion having an inner surface;
an annular wall extending from the top portion; and
a groove formed on the inner surface of the top portion
said groove extending chordwise from a first point adjacent the
annular wall to a second point adjacent the annular wall.

10/11. (Amended) A bottle cap [as recited in claim 10] comprising:
a top portion having an inner surface;
an annular wall extending from the top portion;
a first set of parallel spaced apart grooves formed on
the inner surface of the top portion; and

6 a second set of parallel spaced apart grooves formed on
7 the inner surface of the top portion, wherein grooves of the first
8 set intersect grooves of the second set.

1 ~~11~~ 12. (Amended) A bottle cap [as recited in claim 10 further]
2 comprising:

3 a top portion having an inner surface;
4 an annular wall extending from the top portion;
5 a plurality of grooves formed on the inner surface of the
6 top portion; and

7 a liner fitted over the top portion inner surface, the
8 liner having an opening formed through its thickness.

1 ~~14~~ 15. (Amended) A vented bottle cap system comprising:

2 a bottle having a neck having a rim defining a mouth and
3 threads formed on the neck outer surface;

4 a cap having a top portion having an inner surface and an
5 annular wall extending from the top portion, the annular wall
6 having threads formed on its inner surface for threading onto the
7 threads formed on the bottle neck, wherein when the cap is threaded
8 onto the bottle neck a gas path is formed between the outer
9 surface of the bottle neck and the inner surface [of the] of the
10 annular wall;

11 a plurality of concentric circular [ridge] ridges formed
12 on the inner surface of the top portion; and

13 a slot formed across each of said plurality of ridges
14 [the ridge], wherein when the cap is threaded onto the bottle neck,
15 the [ridge sits] ridges^{sit} on the bottle neck rim and the [slot forms]
16 slots define a pathway for gas generated in the bottle to escape
17 across the bottle neck rim and through the [gas path] pathway.

1 ¹⁵16. (Amended) A vented bottle cap system as recited in claim ¹⁴15
2 [comprising:
3 a plurality of concentric ridges formed in the inner
4 surface of the top portion, wherein when the cap is threaded onto
5 the bottle neck, the plurality of ridges contact the bottle neck
6 rim; and
7 at least a slot in each ridge,] wherein a slot in each
8 ridge is radially aligned with a slot in an adjacent ridge.

1 ¹⁶17. (Amended) A vented bottle cap system as recited in claim ¹⁴16
2 [comprising:
3 a plurality of concentric ridges formed on the inner
4 surface of the top portion, wherein when the cap is threaded onto
5 the bottle neck, the plurality of ridges contact the bottle neck
6 rim; and
7 at least a slot across each ridge,] wherein a slot in
8 each ridge is circumferentially spaced apart from a slot in an
9 adjacent ridge.

In line 18, line 6, delete "gas path" and insert --pathway--.

In claim 19, line 12, delete "radially" and insert --
outwardly--.

line 12, after "beyond", as --two locations

of--.

1 ²²22. A method for venting gases generated in a bottle having
2 a rim defining a mouth and containing a liquid, the method
3 comprising the steps of:
4 providing a cap having a top portion, a plurality of
5 circular [ridge] ridges formed on an inner surface of the top

6 portion and a slot formed across [the ridge] each of said plurality
7 of ridges; and

8 torquing the cap on the bottle causing the [ridge]
9 plurality of ridges to sit on the rim, wherein the [slot provides]
10 plurality of slots provide a pathway for the venting of gases.

1 ~~23~~ 24. A method as recited in claim ~~22~~ further comprising the
2 steps of:

3 forcing liquid in the slot; and
4 solidifying the liquid to block the pathway through [the
5 slot] at least one of said slots.

1 ~~24~~ 25. A method for venting gases generated in a bottle having
2 a rim defining a mouth and containing a liquid the method
3 comprising the steps:

4 providing a cap having a top portion and a groove formed
5 on an inner surface of the top portion; and

6 torquing the cap on the bottle causing the inner surface
7 of the top portion to sit on the rim, wherein the groove extends
8 outwardly beyond two locations of the rim and provides a pathway
9 for the venting of gases.

1 ~~31~~ 32. A vented bottle cap system comprising:

2 a bottle having a neck having a rim defining a mouth and
3 having threads formed on the bottle neck outer surface;

4 a cap having a top portion having an inner surface and an
5 annular wall extending from the top portion, the annular wall
6 having threads formed on its inner surface for threading onto the
7 threads formed on the bottle neck outer surface, wherein when the
8 cap is threaded onto the bottle neck a gas path is formed between
9 outer surface of the bottle neck and the inner surface of the
10 annular wall;

11 a disc made of a material being at least semi hard fitted
12 over the top portion inner surface, the disc having a first surface
13 opposite a second surface, wherein the first surface faces the top
14 portion inner surface; and

15 a first set of parallel grooves and a second set of
16 parallel grooves formed on the second surface of the disc, wherein
17 grooves of the first set intersect grooves of the second set,

18 [a groove formed on the second surface of the disc]
19 wherein when the cap is threaded onto the bottle neck, the [groove
20 extends] grooves extend radially beyond the rim of the bottle neck
21 providing [a pathway] pathways for gas generated in the bottle to
22 escape across the bottle neck mouth [and through the gas path].

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36. A vented bottle cap system comprising:

2 a bottle having a neck having a rim defining a mouth and
3 threads formed on the neck outer surface;

4 a cap having a top portion having an inner surface and an
5 annular wall extending from the top portion, the annular wall
6 having threads formed on its inner surface for threading onto the
7 threads formed on the bottle neck outer surface, wherein when the
8 cap is threaded onto the bottle neck a gas path is formed between
9 the outer surface of the bottle neck and the inner surface of the
10 annular wall;

11 a disc made from a material being at least semi hard
12 fitted over the top portion inner surface, the disc having a
13 circumferential edge and a first surface opposite a second surface,
14 wherein the first surface faces the top portion inner surface;

15 a gap between the annular wall and the circumferential
16 edge;

17 an opening formed through the thickness of the disc, the
18 opening located within the bottle mouth when the cap is threaded
19 onto the bottle neck;

20 a circular ridge formed on the first surface of the disc;
21 and
22 a slot formed across the ridge, wherein when the cap is
23 threaded onto the bottle neck, the ridge is located over the bottle
24 neck rim and the opening and slot form a pathway for gas generated
25 in the bottle to escape across the bottle neck and through the gas
26 path.

9
a 33
a 31. A bottle cap liner disc for use with ^a cap for capping a
2 bottle having a rim defining a bottle mouth and having an inner and
3 an outer diameter, the disc allowing for the venting of gases
4 generated in a bottle when the cap is threaded on the bottle, the
5 disc comprising:
6 a first surface opposite a second surface and a thickness
7 therebetween;
8 an opening formed through the thickness;
9 a circular ridge formed on the first surface of the
10 disc; and
11 a slot formed across the ridge.

CANCEL claims 2, 33-35, and 38-40.

Add claims 41-47 as follows:

34
B 1 -- 41. A bottle cap liner disc for use with ^a cap for capping a
2 bottle having a rim defining a bottle mouth and having an inner and
3 an outer diameter, the disc allowing for the venting of gases
4 generated in a bottle when the cap is threaded on the bottle, the
5 disc comprising:
6 a first surface opposite a second surface; and
7 a plurality of concentric circular ridges formed on the
8 first surface of the disc; and
9 a slot formed across each of said plurality of ridges.--

B1 -- ³⁵/₄₂. An insert having an annular section for use with ^a cap for
2 capping a bottle having a rim defining a bottle mouth and having an
3 inner and an outer diameter, the insert allowing for the venting of
4 gases generated in a bottle when the cap is threaded on the bottle,
5 the disc defining a central opening and comprising:
6 a first surface opposite a second surface;
7 a circular ridge formed on the first surface of the
8 annular section; and
9 a slot formed across the ridge.--

a/b 1 -- ³¹/₄₃. An insert as recited in claim ³⁵/₄₂ comprising a plurality
2 of a concentric circular ridges and a slot formed across each of
3 said plurality of ridges.--

1 -- ³⁷/₄₄. A vented bottle cap system comprising:
2 a bottle having a neck having a rim defining a mouth and
3 threads formed on the neck outer surface;
4 a cap having a top portion having an inner surface and an
5 annular wall extending from the top portion, the annular wall
6 having threads formed on its inner surface for threading onto the
7 threads formed on the bottle neck, wherein when the cap is threaded
8 onto the bottle neck a gas path is formed between outer surface of
9 the bottle neck and the inner surface of the annular wall;
10 a venting member having an annular section having a
11 central opening and made of a material being at least semi hard,
12 the annular section having a first surface opposite a second
13 surface and sandwiched between the cap inner surface and the rim
14 wherein the first surface faces the cap top portion inner surface;
15 a circular ridge formed on the first surface of the
16 annular section; and